

From: Tony Christopher
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 1:17pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To DOJ reviewers;

I believe that the settlement the US government has made with Microsoft is a travesty that will allow MS to continue with its self benefiting, conquer-all strategies and tactics. And, over the near future, uncontrolled, Microsoft will create more injustice that it has in the Internet Browser situation. The data for my argument comes from looking at the emerging area of standards for personal identity on the Internet.

I work in the area of virtual community technologies and services - see bio link below. I believe that collaboration/connections among people, worldwide, is one of the most powerful, forthcoming benefits of computer-communications technologies. I have researched and learned a good deal about the importance of "identity" on the net. Microsoft's Passport system, distributed through their pervasive Windows OS, could become a major mal-influence in the emergence of holistic identity services. Here is the data:

Gartner Group has recently completed a study of 2100 users of online/web services; the study focuses on consumer web identity and privacy issues -- <http://techupdate.zdnet.com/techupdate/stories/main/0,14179,2830912,00.html>
Summary: " Despite consumers' apathy and distrust, identity services will succeed because they will be embedded into Windows XP and the Internet services that consumers will use. Accordingly, Gartner predicts that 40 million online U.S. consumers automatically enrolled in identity services will use them to access an average of three Web sites each month by the end of 2003. "

This data substantiates that consumers will lose in the future (versus the econometric models likely used in the trial to show how consumers have been harmed in the past) if Microsoft maintains as one business both the operating system and the application software & Services businesses. One of the conclusions that can be drawn from Gartner's study/data is that Microsoft's monopoly will result in consumers putting up with the weak privacy-control that will result with Passport -- whereas the data shows that consumers want strong privacy-control. If Microsoft were to be two companies where the web services were split out from the WindowsOS business more competitive dynamics could prevail in the coming generation of net services i.e., Passport would have to compete with the Java authentication/identity offerings - consumers would have more choice and more privacy-control alternatives would likely be available.

I want to go on record as being strongly against the weak terms of the antitrust settlement with Microsoft. They will cause more injustice and harm

in the future than they have in the past if we do not take the current judgment against them to mete out remedies that will protect the Internet industrial and consumer participants from the force of this conquering gorilla.

A.J. Christopher

These views reflect my own personal beliefs and do not represent those of my employer.

Anthony J. Christopher
Community Practice Manager
Mongoose Technologies, Inc. www.MongooseTech.com
Bio: www.MongooseTech.com/RealCommunities/Tony.html
E-mail: Tony.Christopher@MongooseTech.com
Phone-Voice Mail: 650-224-4567

CC: Tony Christopher